Irregularities in voters' lists

*210. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the names of a large number of legitimate voters were removed from the voters' lists and thus deprived of casting votes in Assembly elections in various States; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has intimated that it is not a fact that the names of large number of legitimate voters were removed from voters' lists and thus deprived of casting votes in Assembly elections in various States. However, some complaints about irregularities in the electoral rolls were received by the Commission and some were made before it. These complaints were investigated through Observers and other administrative machinery entrusted with the work of revision of electoral rolls and appropriate action was taken to rectify the rolls, wherever required.

illegal quarrying of iron ore in Karnataka

*211. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale illegal quarrying of iron ore in Karnataka;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large-scale use of young children in both the legal and illegal quarries and the largerscale permanent damage on the environment by the unrelenting quarrying in these regions; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to regulate such exploitation of the nation's natural resources and regulating these mining activities in other areas like child labour and amenities for labour etc.?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Instances of illegal mining of minerals, including iron ore, in the State of Karnataka have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(b) As per available information, there is no reported instance of child labour in the legal mining leases, where it is necessary to obtain clearance